

**WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

BY

**THOMAS U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.P.H.,**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE WHISTON  
RURAL DISTRICT.**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1937.**



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## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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### Officers:

Medical Officer of Health:  
T. U. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: W. H. BONE, R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:  
S. GUY,                      A. RIGBY.

Sanitary Engineer: W. GARBUTT.

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## Annual Report for 1937.

The report is again on the same lines as those of recent years, and the Registrar-General has supplied me with a Return of Births and Deaths, and an estimate of the mid-year population.

I have also received for comparison, the Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality for the whole of England and Wales, and for other divisions of the country, as before.

A comparison of our own rates with those of England and Wales, are shown later in the report, as also those of the case rates of certain diseases.

A copy of the summary of the particulars required by the Ministry of Health has already been returned to the County Medical Officer of Health.

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### 1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres): 29,440.

Population—Census, 1931: 22,864.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937:  
25,320.

Number of inhabited houses:

(a) Census, 1931 .....	4,808
(b) End of 1937, according to rate books .....	7,064

Rateable Value: £143,000.              Sum represented by a penny rate: £541.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:  
The inhabitants mainly belong to the working classes, but with a considerable number of the middle class. The chief industries are Agriculture, Coal-mining, Brass Founding, Brick-making and Stove-making.

Extent of unemployment: Not very considerable

The influence of any particular occupation on public health: Coal miners and Stonemasons are liable to contract pulmonary complaints.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any cause of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—Legitimate .....	411	227	184
Illegitimate.....	8	6	2
Total .....	419	233	186

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 16.5.

Still Births .....	19	12	7
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 43.			

Deaths .....	252	142	110
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: *9.9.			

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Puerperal sepsis .....	0		
Other Puerperal causes .....	1		
Total .....	1		

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 2.28.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	250

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages) .....	41
Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	2

Per 1,000 of estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality.		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births.
Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births.	

Population: 25,320.

Mean of 5 years,						
1932—1936 .....	13.9	10.1	0.33	1.13	4.43	48
Year—1936.....	16.1	9.7	0.25	0.94	5.30	29
1937.....	16.5	*9.9	0.03	1.61	2.38	57

Increase or decrease in 1936 on

5 years' average,						
1932—1936 .....	+2.6	−0.2	−0.30	+0.48	−2.05	+9
Previous year	+0.4	+0.2	−0.22	+0.67	−2.92	+28

\* 1937 adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 9.5 per 1,000.



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT IN 1937.

The Registrar General's complete return is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
All Causes	142	110	252
Diphtheria	2	2	
Influenza	4	5	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1	
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	
G.P.I., Tabes, etc.	3	0	
Cancer	17	24	
Diabetes	1	4	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	11	4	
Heart Disease	26	26	
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	1	
Bronchitis	3	1	
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	5	
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	
Peptic Ulcer	4	0	
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	0	
Appendicitis	0	1	
Diseases of Liver other than Cirrhosis	1	0	
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	0	
Puerperal Disease other than Sepsis	0	1	
Conjenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	7	6	
Senility	5	8	
Suicide	2	1	
Other Violence	8	6	
Other defined diseases	16	11	
Ill defined or not known	1	0	

## 2.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: T. U. Mercer.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1937: £250.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?—Part.

Any other public appointments held by him?: Medical Officer to Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Is he in private practice?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspectors:—

W. H. Bone. Remuneration at 31/12/37: £300. Part-time.

Other appointments held: Building Surveyor.

S. Guy. Remuneration at 31/12/37: £225. Part-time.

Other appointments held: Assistant Building Surveyor.

A. Rigby: Remuneration at 31/12/37: £208. Part-time.

Other appointments held: Assistant Building Surveyor.

Veterinary Inspectors (any appointment or arrangement by the local authority): H. Leyland or P. T. Lindsay.

Remuneration (state whether salary or fees, and amount): Fees in each case.

Are their duties entirely in connection with action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925 —No.

If not, what other duties do they perform for the local authority?—Called upon in cases of other diseases.

Do they make a routine examination of every herd in the district?—No.

If occasional inspection only is carried out, under what circumstances do these inspections take place (e.g., at the request of M.O.H., etc.)?—At request of either M.O.H. or Sanitary Inspector.

Any other Specialised Inspector (e.g., Food Inspector)?—None.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, etc.: None.

Ambulance facilities for:—

(a) Infectious cases: Motor, by Whiston Rural District Council.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Motor, by Public Assistance Committee.

(c) Maternity patients: Motor, by Public Assistance Committee.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for—

- (a) General Nursing: None.
- (b) Nursing of infectious diseases, e.g., measles, etc.: None.

Is there in your district:—

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre (Consultation & treatment): No.  
 Ante-natal Clinic: No.  
 Day Nursery: No.  
 School Clinic: No.  
 Orthopædic Clinic: No.  
 Artificial Light Clinic: No.

Hospitals in the district:—

- (a) Public: Whiston Infirmary; Rainhill County Mental Hospital.
- (b) Voluntary: None.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for:—

Unmarried mothers: Whiston Institution, by Public Assistance Committee.  
 Illegitimate infants: ditto.  
 Homeless children: ditto.

Health Education:—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment (e.g., health week, special lectures, etc.) ?—Posters have been put up, and leaflets distributed.

New legislation (if any) and date of operation:—

Local Acts: None.  
 Special Local Orders: None.  
 General Adoptive Acts: None.  
 Bye-laws relating to public health: None.

### 3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**WATER SUPPLY—**

Authority from which supply obtained: Liverpool, St. Helens and Widnes Corporation mains. A few wells in outlying districts.

Source of supply: Red sandstone and upland surface.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.

Is supply of district satisfactory ?—

- (a) In quality: Yes.
- (b) In quantity: Yes.



Constant or intermittent: Constant from mains. Wells not always dependable.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private)—

(a) Direct from mains:

(b) By stand pipe:

Possibilities of contamination: Some wells are liable to contamination.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: Samples taken from wells.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action: No.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination: This is carried out by supplying authorities.

Chemical analyses—Results: None.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc: 75 from wells.

Have these waters been analysed during the year If so, state result: No.

Any insufficiency, and where: A few isolated cases only, chiefly in Bold and Kirkby.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: See later in report.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—**

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment: Irrigation, with or without filtration.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system: Small works at Kirkby cleansed and new media provided to filter.

Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage: Construction of sewage works at Halewood commenced.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor: Cronton, Tarbock and parts of others. Sewering of these areas would be too expensive.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.: Smoke and colour tests.

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS—**

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: Septic tanks and filters provided where possible.

Sources and nature of pollution: Sewage from our own and outside districts, as well as trade refuse.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufacturers, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution?—No.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION at end of 1937—**

Privy middens:—No. of middens: 1,044.

No. of closets attached to these middens: 1,245.

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres?

Yes, to some extent.

No. of pail closets .....	115
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens) .....	428
No. of movable ashbins .....	5,175
No. of houses on water carriage system .....	5,326
No. of fresh water closets .....	5,558
No. of waste water closets .....	Nil.

**Conversions—**

	During year 1937	During five years, 1932—1936.
No. of privy closets:		
To fresh w.c.'s .....	15	45
To waste w.c.'s .....	—	—
To pails, etc. ....	7	3
No. of pail closets:		
To fresh w.c.'s .....	1	215
To waste w.c.'s .....	—	—
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s .....	—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles .....	32	275

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Conversions are being made when finances permit. Loan for conversion of privy middens was not sanctioned by Ministry.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.

If so, how much?—Privy middens: Half cost.

Pail closets: Whole cost.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—Fresh water closets.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING—**

- (a) The method of collecting dry house refuse: In eight townships the Council undertakes work direct by motor vehicles.
- (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: By motor vehicles.
- (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse: Refuse from eight townships removed to central tip.
- (d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies: To farmers for manurial purposes.
- (e) The method of cleansing cesspools: Done by occupiers or owners.
- (f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents: Usually to gardens.

If a destructor provided, state situation: None provided.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses?—In eight townships by Council, and in three others, by contract.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements: None.

Are motor vehicles used?—Yes, by Council.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—By day.  
Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging?—Yes.

#### **SANITARY INSPECTIONS during 1937—**

No. of premises visited: 469.

Defects or nuisances.—No. discovered: 121. No. abated: 115.

No. of notices served.—Informal: 110. Statutory: 3.

Legal proceedings: None.

#### **SHOPS—**

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to:—

(a) Ventilation of shops: None.

(b) Temperature of shops: None.

(c) Sanitary conveniences: None.

#### **SMOKE ABATEMENT—**

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district: 15.

No. of observations: Six.

No. of legal proceedings taken and result: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—None fixed.

#### **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS—**

Brief particulars of any:

(a) Public swimming baths or pools: None in district.

(b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public: None in district.

Any action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water?—None.

#### **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—**

Particulars of action taken during 1937—

No. of houses found to be infested:

(a) Council houses: None.

(b) Other houses: 13.

No. of houses disinfested:

(a) Council houses: None.

(b) Other houses: 13.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs:  
Disinfestation by solution D. & S.O.<sub>2</sub>.



Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses: Disinfestation by Formalin, and S.O.<sub>2</sub>.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a contractor?—Local Authority.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing: None.

#### **SCHOOLS—**

(a) Sanitary condition: Generally satisfactory. The worst school is to be closed. Two schools still have privy middens.

(b) Water supply: All from mains. Satisfactory?—Yes. Some schools have no flush to urinals.

#### **OFFENSIVE TRADES—**

Number: None.

Date of bye-laws: March 1st, 1935.

Are they adequate?—Yes.

#### **WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES—**

Number on register: 49.

What is their condition?—Fair.

#### **COMMON LODGING-HOUSES—**

Number on register: None.

Date of bye-laws: March 1st, 1935.

Are they adequate: Yes.

#### **HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS—**

Number on register: None.

Date of bye-laws: May 13th, 1897.

Are they adequate?—Yes.

#### **TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, etc.—**

Action taken: None. Action required: None.

Date of bye-laws: None.

**UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS—**Any need for regulations: None.

**CANAL BOATS—**Number inspected: None.

#### **RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928—**

Number of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1937: Public conveniences for both ladies and gentlemen erected in Eccleston and Whiston.

Chief sanitary requirements of district: Conversion of privy middens and pail closets to water carriage system.

Erection of houses for the relief of overcrowding, and in place of those condemned, and still to be demolished.

Better methods of sewage disposal.



## 4.—HOUSING

### (a) STATISTICS.

#### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ) .....	909
(i) By the local authority .....	None
(ii) By other local authorities .....	145
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	474
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above) .....	None
(ii) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (iii) above) .....	290

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	114
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	348
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	None
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	114

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .....	33
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#### 2. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

##### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	None
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	None

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:**

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
  - (a) By owners ..... None
  - (b) By local authority in default of owners ..... None

**C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 1

**D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... None
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... None

**4. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.**

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 132
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..... 159
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..... 1014
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 2
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... 37
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... 276

**Housing Conditions—**

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 37.

**Sufficiency of Supply of Houses—**

- (a) Extent of shortage (if any): There is still a shortage of houses of the working class type.
- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated: The Council contemplate the erection of 152 houses to replace those which are to be demolished, and for the relief of overcrowding.
- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: Considerable increase in population due to the housing programme of the Liverpool Corporation in Knowsley, and possibly in Hale.
- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: In the townships of Halewood and Windle, difficulty has arisen to secure sites where public services are available.

**Overcrowding—**

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1937: None.
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations: None.
- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.
- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.: None.

**Housing Conditions.****BOLD.**

There is little change in the housing conditions in the Parish of Bold. The Rural District Council have commenced the erection of 24 Houses in this Parish to accommodate persons who will be displaced from Unfit Houses and from Overcrowded Houses.

**CRONTON.**

In the Parish of Cronton there has been very little building activity during the year.

**ECCLESTON.**

In the Parish of Eccleston building operations have been well maintained, the Houses erected being of the Detached and Semi-detached type for owner occupiers.

**HALE.**

A few Houses of the larger type have been erected in the above Parish during the year.

**HALEWOOD.**

In the Parish of Halewood building operations have been fairly active. The types of houses erected being of the Semi-detached owner-occupier type.

**KIRKBY.**

In Kirkby building operations have been practically at a standstill during the last year.

**KNOWSLEY.**

In this Parish since the Liverpool Corporation completed their scheme by the erection of 478 Houses in the previous year building development has ceased.

**RAINHILL.**

Building operations in the Parish of Rainhill have been well maintained. A large number of smaller class dwellings to let have been erected, whilst a number of the owner-occupier class of houses have also been erected.

**TARBOCK.**

During the year only a small number of the Semi-detached types of dwellings have been erected in this Parish.

**WHISTON.**

This year, as previously, building operations in the Parish of Whiston have been well maintained. The Houses erected being of the smaller type.



## WINDLE.

In the Parish of Windle a large number of Houses of the Semi-detached type have been erected, and building operations are being steadily maintained.

### 5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### (1) MILK SUPPLY.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926: Premises inspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector, and samples of milk submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli.

#### The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1937 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk:

(i) Bottling: Nil.                      (ii) Distribution: Nil.

“Accredited” Milk:

(i) Bottling: Nil.                      (ii) Distribution: Nil.

Number of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” Milk:—

Pasteurising Plants: Nil.      Retail Distributors: Three.

Method used for the pasteurisation of milk (“flash” or “holding”): Nil.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

#### Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—Frequently.

What is their condition?—Generally satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds? In a number of cases, shippons and dairies have been re-modelled to meet the requirements of the Accredited Milk Scheme. There are nineteen producers of Accredited Milk in the district.

Any information as to the cost of the work, actual or estimated?—None available.

#### Farms.

Number of dairy farms: 124.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 1,400.

#### Cowkeepers.

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 124.

Number of inspections during the year: 361.



**Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).**

Number of dairymen of milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 5.

If a Veterinary Inspector has been appointed give (a) the approximate number of cows inspected and (b) the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis: (a) 140; (b) 4.

Action taken by local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk:

Number of samples submitted for biological test: 52.

Result: Positive, 4; Negative, 48.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations or (iii) Sediment Tests: None.

**(2) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—Observations on:**

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: Periodically inspected by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Inspection of Meat—

Number killed (if known): Not known.

Number inspected: 136 Pigs.

Tuberculosis only—Whole carcasses condemned: None.

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned: 23.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis: 16 per cent.

(c) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided?—No.

Private slaughterhouses?—No, registered: 1. No. licenced: 1.

Are they conducted satisfactorily?—Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III. of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken hereunder: None.

(e) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any): None.

(f) Bakehouses—Number: 7. Condition: Fair.

**(3) Adulteration, etc.—**

Action taken by Local Authority (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of: (i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, or (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations: None.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out: None.

**(4) Bacteriological examination of food (excluding milk).—**

Number and nature of analyses during the year: None.

**(5) Nutrition.—**

Steps taken to increase knowledge of nutrition, etc.: None.

Any special investigation on the subject of nutrition: None.

**(6) Shell-fish (Molluscan).—**

Any shell-fish beds or layings in the district?—None.

## 6.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

### Hospital Accommodation provided or available:

For smallpox arrangements made with Liverpool Corporation.

Are any retaining fees paid?—Yes.

If so, what sum or sums?—£37/7/1 per annum.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—No.

For other infectious diseases: Isolation Hospital.

Number of beds?—Thirty-eight (see below).

Where situated?—Delph Lane, Whiston.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement”?—Patients from Huyton and Prescott Urban Districts are treated and paid for at actual cost.

Are any retaining fees paid?—No.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?—Hospital is owned by Whiston R.D.C.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment?—No.

### Cost of Hospital Treatment for Infectious Disease.—The total cost to the Local Authority for two recent years:—

Year ended March, 1936: £3,636. Year ended March, 1937: £5,679.

Observations as to sufficiency or otherwise of the available accommodation: During the last year this has proved quite inadequate, and use has been made of the old smallpox hospital, and a temporary building for 16 beds has also been constructed, and a number of patients have been sent to Widnes and Aughton Isolation Hospitals.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—It is always used to the best advantage.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—Yes. More use has been made of anti-scarlet fever serum.

Has action been taken to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home?—No. All cases willing to be removed are admitted into hospital, unless complicated with other infectious diseases.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No.

### Infectious Diseases Generally:—

Review the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1937: Diphtheria has been the most prevalent infectious disease, particularly during the last half of the year. Rainhill and Knowsley were the townships chiefly affected, and in both districts a number of carrier cases were found and isolated. (See later in report).

Clinical type and diffusion of: The disease has been of a rather severe type, and many hæmorrhagic cases have occurred, especially nasal cases. (Swabs taken: 1,479).

Cerebro-spinal fever: No cases.



**Notes on the supply and prompt use of—**

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Cases removed to hospital are injected on admission. If any cases are kept at home anti-toxin is supplied gratis on request.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum: No applications.

Are supplies readily available?—Yes, for diphtheria.

If so, where kept?—Sanatorium, Whiston.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners?—No applications.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash, and puerperal fever)?—None.

**Influenza.**—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: At the beginning of the year all schools were affected and were all closed for a period of two weeks, at the end of which the epidemic had subsided.

**Pneumonia, Malaria, and Dysentery.**—Experience in regard to these diseases: All the cases of dysentery except one occurred at the Rainhill Mental Hospital. The other was convalescent when notified. Pneumonia cases have been no more than usual, and there have been no cases of malaria.

Other diseases which have received special attention, e.g., locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever, or psittacosis?—None.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation?—None.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to (a) contacts, (b) return cases, (c) carrier cases (specify disease): Swabs taken of many diphtheria contacts, and a number of carrier cases found. Two return cases of scarlet fever, one from another hospital and one return case of diphtheria.

The extent to which school intimations of diseases are utilised: Examined each week, and schools visited if any number of cases of infectious disease.

**Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.**

At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Crofton Lodge, Runcorn, and Liverpool University.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1937: For diphtheria, one; influenza, one.

Number of reports made during 1937 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935: Two.

Subject of reports: School closure.

**Immunisation.**—Any action taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria and/or scarlet fever: None.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—No applications.

Number of children inoculated—Against (a) scarlet fever: None. (b) diphtheria: None.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—No.

**Disinfection after Infectious Disease.—**

Number of houses disinfected during 1937: 218. Method: Formalin.

Are houses disinfected after (a) pulmonary tuberculosis: Yes. (b) Measles: Only on request.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Steam.

Number of articles disinfected: About 8,000.

Where is apparatus situated: Isolation Hospital, Delph Lane, Whiston.

If apparatus is used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of patients not removed to the hospital?—Yes. 96 articles disinfected from outside hospital.

**Disinfestation.—**

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, etc., persons?—Done when necessary at Whiston Institution.

In how many instances has this been undertaken?—None.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc., should be referred to and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppression: Crickets on refuse tips. Spraying with creosote and paraffin.

**Cancer.**—Any observations as to the prevalence of cancer?—No special prevalence.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer: None.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or other developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area during the year: None.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres?—None.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer?—None.

**Prevention of Blindness.**

Action taken (if any) under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes: None required.



TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1937†.

Age Periods. Years	New Cases*				Deaths‡			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— .....	—	—	3	1	—	—	2	—
5— .....	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
10— .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20— .....	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
25— .....	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
35— .....	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45— .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55— .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	9	9	7	3	—	1	3	—
	18		10		‡1		‡3	

\*All primary notifications should be included, and also any other new cases of tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

‡(The number of Deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar-General).

†What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—One-half. One notified after death by Central T.B. Officer and one inward transfer.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Not quite.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tubercuclosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade?—None.

Public Health Acts, 1925 and 1936.

Any action taken under section 62, Public Health Act, 1925, or section 172, Public Health Act, 1936?—None.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Hospital	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS											Total Deaths	Total Cases re-moved to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over		
Smallpox ...	86	..	1	4	6	5	47	13	4	4	1	1	..	66	..
Scarlet Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Group	123	..	3	4	8	7	66	22	5	8	..	..	4	121	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	4	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	1	..	..
Acute Inf'l'zal Pneumonia	11	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..
Acute Inf'l'zal Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Tyrexia ...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ...	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	1	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ...	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria, contracted—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In this Country	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abroad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles excluding German Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anthrax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tetanus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total...	244	2	6	8	14	13	113	35	11	30	6	4	2	191	4

### 7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—Details should be given in the following table of each case of ophthalmia neonatorum notified in your district during 1937:—

CASES			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	...	1	...	...	...

Signed,

T. U. MERCER,

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1938.

# WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Comparison of Rates.

### Rates per 1,000 population:

	England & Wales.	Whiston R.D.C.
BIRTHS.—Live .....	14.9	16.5
Still .....	0.67	0.75

### DEATHS—All Causes.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid .....	0.00	0.00
Small Pox .....	0.00	0.00
Measles .....	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever .....	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria .....	0.07	0.15
Influenza .....	0.45	0.35
Violence .....	0.54	0.67

### NOTIFICATIONS.

Small Pox .....	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever .....	2.33	3.39
Diphtheria .....	1.49	4.85
Enteric Fever .....	0.05	0.15
Erysipelas .....	0.37	0.11
Pneumonia.....	1.36	0.43

### Rates per 1,000 Live Births:

Deaths under 1 year of age	58	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age .....	5.8	4.77

### MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	0.00
Others .....	2.26	2.33
Total .....	3.23	2.33

### Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., live and still):

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	0.00
Others .....	2.14	2.28
Total .....	3.11	2.28

### NOTIFICATIONS.

Puerperal Fever		
Puerperal Pyrexia	13.93	7.25



## Notes and Comments on Infectious Diseases.

At the beginning of the year, Influenza was very prevalent all over the district, and all schools were closed for two weeks at the end of which time the disease had greatly diminished and school attendances were about normal.

Later in the year, diphtheria became very prevalent, especially amongst the scholars in Rainhill C.E. School. Nasal and throat swabs were taken, and several carrier cases were found. These were taken into the Isolation Hospital, and the school closed for three weeks.

As the hospital was full, and certain repair work and painting was required in the wards, it was arranged with the Widnes Corporation to take in the cases of scarlet fever into their hospital, and make use of the available space for those of diphtheria. Some time afterwards, as the hospital became overcrowded, it became necessary to send cases of both diphtheria, and scarlet fever, into Widnes, and in November both hospitals were filled, and further arrangements were made with West Lancashire Rural District Council, to admit diphtheria cases into their hospital at Aughton.

At Whiston, both the ordinary hospital, and the old Smallpox hospital had been in full use for a considerable time, and to relieve the congestion, a temporary building for sixteen beds was erected and proved very useful. In addition, a wooden building was put up to accommodate the extra nurses required.

Besides our own cases, the hospital admits cases from both Prescott and Huyton-with-Roby Urban Districts, and in these areas, both scarlet fever and diphtheria have been very prevalent almost throughout the year. The total admissions for the year have been 457, of whom 191 were from our own district, 195 from Huyton, and 71 from Prescott.

On the 1st of January, 1937, there were already 39 cases in the hospital. Together with the admissions, this gives a total of 496. 405 were discharged during the year, and there were 14 deaths, giving a mortality of 2.82 per cent. of the cases treated. Seventy-seven still remained in hospital at the end of the year.

Of those admitted during the year, 384 were treated in Whiston, 62 in Widnes, and 11 in Aughton.

## Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewage from Eccleston and Whiston is treated at the Whiston Sewage Works, by means of tanks and filters. There are four large circular filters and two smaller ones, the latter taking the sewage from the Whiston Pottery Area.

Even in dry weather they appear to work at full capacity, so that at times, almost untreated sewage must find its way into the brook at the bottom of the works. The effluent from the larger filters is rather brownish in colour, and that from the smaller ones is not satisfactory, but the brook appears to be badly polluted before it reaches the works, and the water is almost black, and patches of oil can be seen floating on the surface of the water.

Rainhill sewage is treated in tanks, and then by broad irrigation, being directed by trenches into large beds of willows and rank grass, but it does not appear to be sufficiently spread over the ground, and the effluent is very bad.

The sewage from a portion of Kirkby is treated in tanks and then passed over filters through semilunar pipes, one in each segment, without branches. One pipe has been deliberately broken and the sewage is discharged on to the media, only at this point. In other cases, it is usually from the end of each pipe only. The effluent is foul, although the filtering medium has been recently renewed.

In Knowsley, part of the district, including several houses with water closets, is drained directly into Alder Brook, which is always foul. Before the war, a scheme for the treatment of sewage in this township by sprinklers, was devised, the works to be constructed on land adjoining this brook, but owing to the outbreak of the war nothing was done. The plans are still in existence and might be suitable for the treatment of the sewage from a large part of the township.

That from the Longview estate, which is partly in Huyton, and partly in Knowsley, where the Liverpool Corporation Houses have been erected, is treated with that from the Huyton portion.

Halewood is having new sewers and works laid down, and their construction was begun before the end of the year.

In Hale, the sewer discharges into a small tank, situated on the marsh, and the effluent, which is practically in the same state as when it enters the tank, runs into a trench, and discharges into a tidal brook about half a mile from the River Mersey. A certain amount finds its way on to the grass land, before reaching the brook. There have been many complaints of the bad smell arising from the tank and trench, and it might be better for the sewer to be continued right up to the brook, but it would be better discharging into the river direct, or at any rate nearer to it, than at present.

In Tarbock and Cronton there are no sewers, and in consequence nearly all the brooks are much fouled, especially those in Cronton.

In Moss Bank, and Clock Face, septic tanks and filters are provided.

In all districts, where sewers are not available, many houses are provided with septic tanks and filters, but the effluents in many cases are very unsatisfactory.

In order to improve the condition of the effluents in some cases, some kind of precipitant might be tried with advantage. A special preparation of alum and iron is now used in many places with very good results, but in the case of Rainhill, Kirkby, and Hale, some quite new system will have to be devised, before any satisfactory result can be attained.



## Schools.

Improvements have been made in the condition of some schools. In one case, arrangements have been made for the flushing of the urinals, and in another, the boys' yard which was in a dangerous condition, has been levelled and asphalted.

At Rainhill and Cronton R.C. Schools, privies still exist, and are most unsatisfactory. In the former case it would be quite easy to convert these into water closets as the school drains are connected to the sewer. In Cronton there are no sewers, but it should be possible to connect w.c.'s to a septic tank, which is only a short distance behind the school. At present, this tank is not in a satisfactory condition, but it can be, and should be, improved. At Eccleston Council School the small boys' urinal is still in one side of the passage to the girls' w.c.'s, and could easily be cut off by a wooden partition, without causing inconvenience to anyone.

### NUISANCES DURING 1937.

Choked Drains .....	44
Insufficient Water Supplies .....	12
Defective Ashpits .....	28
Burst Water Pipes .....	3
Smoke Nuisance .....	5
Accummulation of Refuse .....	7
Animals .....	3
Brook Pollution .....	6
Vermin .....	4
Dampness .....	9
	121

### SEWERS CONSTRUCTED IN THE WHISTON AREA. YEAR 1937.

Parish.	Foul Sewers.
Whiston .....	81
Eccleston .....	1211
Knowsley .....	255
Rainhill .....	1460
Bold .....	10
Windle .....	25
Hale .....	14
	3056
Totals .....	3056 Lineal Yds.



## Water Supplies.

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### WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS.

#### St. Helens Corporation—

	in.	yards.
Coronation Road .....	4	193
	3	200
Daresbury Avenue .....	4	54
Broadway, Eccleston .....	4	105
Stuart Road .....	4	109
	6	212
Church Road, Eccleston .....	3	160
Portico .....	3	60
St. George's Avenue .....	3	12
Queen's Drive .....	6	20
	4	178
Queensway .....	3	12
Brookside Avenue .....	4	62
Bleak Hill Road .....	3	50

#### Widnes Corporation—

Northern Lane .....	3	292
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#### Liverpool Corporation—

Whiston .....	4	229
Rainhill .....	3	429
	4	1167
	5	298
	6	120
Halewood .....	4	96
	5	146

## Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.)

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories ..... (Including Factory Laundries)	8	2	Nil
Workshops ..... (Including Workshop Laundries)	10	3	Nil
Workplaces ..... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	4	1	Nil
Total .....	22	6	Nil

### 2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<b>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</b>				
Want of cleanliness .....	5	5		
Want of ventilation .....				
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient .....	Nil	Nil		
Unsuitable or defective .....	Nil	Nil		
Not separate for sexes .....				
Total .....	5	5	Nil	Nil

T. U. MERCER,

Medical Officer of Health







